

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A thermoplastic composite comprising:

- (a) a polyolefin;
- (b) a cellulosic filler;
- (c) a carboxylic acid and/or carboxylic acid anhydride graft polyolefin having an acid number greater than 35 mgKOH/g; and,
- (d) a basic reactive filler present in an amount of 8-20 wt%, based on the weight of the composite,

the composite having a Young Modulus at least about 20% greater than the Young Modulus of a corresponding composite without the basic reactive filler.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the acid number of the graft polyolefin is greater than 40 mgKOH/g.

Claim 4 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the acid number of the graft polyolefin is from 40-50 mgKOH/g.

Claim 5 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the graft polyolefin has a molecular weight of less than 50,000 g/mol.

Claim 6 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the graft polyolefin has a molecular weight of less than 20,000 g/mol.

Claim 7 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the graft polyolefin has a molecular weight of from 1000-10,000 g/mol.

Claim 8 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the graft polyolefin is present in an amount of up to 5 wt%, based on the weight of the composite.

Claim 9 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the graft polyolefin is present in an amount of 1-3 wt%, based on the weight of the composite.

Claim 10 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid and/or carboxylic acid anhydride graft polyolefin is maleic anhydride graft polypropylene.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the basic reactive filler is selected from the group consisting of CaO, MgO, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the polyolefin is present in an amount of 20-90 wt%, based on the weight of the composite.

Claim 14 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the polyolefin is polypropylene or polyethylene.

Claim 15 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the cellulosic filler is present in an amount of 30-80 wt%, based on the weight of the composite.

Claim 16 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the cellulosic filler is fibrous.

Claim 17 (original): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the cellulosic filler is wood flour.

Claim 18 (original): The composite according to claim 1, further comprising a secondary reinforcement, a lubricant, an impact modifier, a filler, a colorant, a pigment, an antioxidant, a stabilizer, a flame retardant, a reheat aid, a crystallization aid, an acetaldehyde reducing compound, a recycling release aid, an oxygen scavenger, a plasticizer, a flexibilizer, a nucleating agent, a foaming agent, a mold release agent or a mixture thereof.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A thermoplastic composite comprising:

- (a) polypropylene;
- (b) a cellulosic filler;
- (c) maleic anhydride graft polypropylene having an acid number of greater than 35 mgKOH/g; and,
- (d) a basic reactive filler present in an amount of 8-20 wt%, based on the weight of the composite,

the composite having a Young Modulus at least about 20% greater than the Young Modulus of a corresponding composite without the basic reactive filler.

Claim 20 (original): The composite according to claim 19, wherein the basic reactive filler is selected from the group consisting of CaO, MgO, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and mixtures thereof.

Claim 21 (original): The composite according to claim 20, wherein the maleic anhydride graft polypropylene has a molecular weight of less than 20,000 g/mol.

Claim 22 (original): The composite according to claim 21, wherein the maleic anhydride graft polypropylene is present in an amount of 1-3 wt%, based on the weight of the composite.

Claim 23 (original): The composite according to claim 22, further comprising glass fibers.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The composite according to claim 22, wherein the cellulosic filler has a relative humidity of less than 2% before reaction with the basic reactive filler.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The composite according to claim 1, wherein the cellulosic filler has a relative humidity of less than 2% before reaction with the basic reactive filler.